



Highlands Historical Society



Fall 2020

To preserve and promote the rich heritage of Highlands

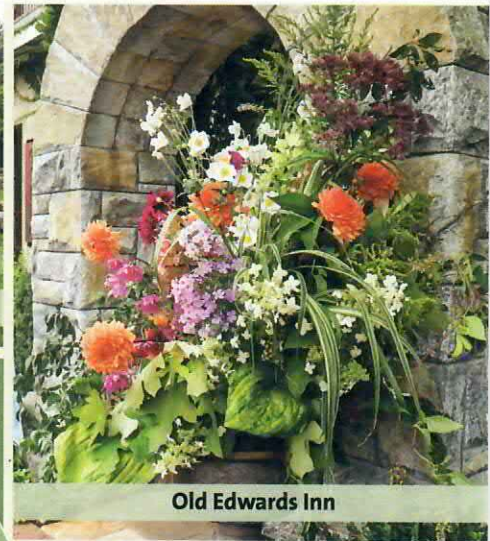
Highlands, N.C.



Picnic in Provence



The Season of Covid-19



Old Edwards Inn



Kirkin' and Bearfootin'

Dahlias Dominate!

The Dazzling Dahlia Festival, held in September, was a terrific example of the Highlands Historical Society's motto for 2020 "History Doesn't Take a Break."

HHS hoped that bringing the natural beauty of the plateau and the creative energy of our folks would give everybody a safe, free, and family friendly event. There were bears playing bagpipes, church hats in a beautiful garden, a moonshine still vignette and many other creative and stunning displays.

Viewers were given a map with all 33 exhibits located and it provided a wonderful opportunity to walk the town and experience Highlands at its best. Kudos to Chairperson Kim Daugherty.

Check out highlandshistory.com for more pictures and a list of designers.



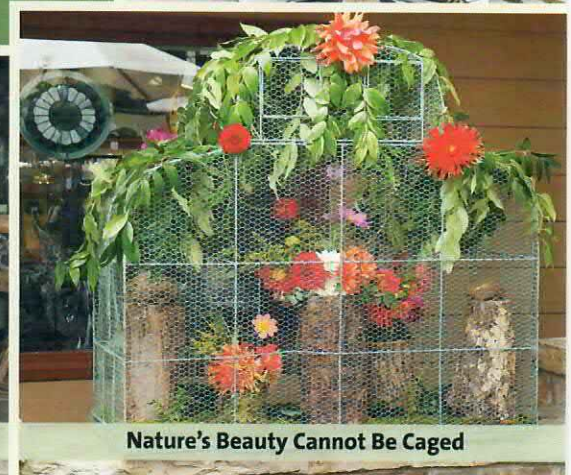
Steal Dahlias



Still Life with Flowers



The Bascom



Nature's Beauty Cannot Be Caged

President's Letter November 2020



I started off the Spring Newsletter message with something like, "These are strange times!" They still are strange times filled with so much uncertainty. Because of Covid-19 the Historic Village was unable to open for the 2020 season. However, to take words again from the last newsletter, we chose to search out the positives and make the most of things.

I am pleased to report to you that even though the museum was closed to the public does not mean we "went into hiding." Here's a brief overview of some of our accomplishments over the year to the betterment of our wonderful Town of Highlands.

Certainly, the most visible was for the first time we took the Dahlia Festival out into the community. Chairperson, Kim Daugherty conceived, organized and executed an event that the Town is still talking about and looking forward to 2021's version. (See main article on front page).

Additionally, in this newsletter is an article describing how three existing exhibits were refurbished and are now waiting for us to introduce them to the public for viewing. Noted curator Anna Fariello of Curatorial InSights transformed them each into educational, interesting and visually attractive displays worthy of the stories they tell. When you see them, you'll agree!

Although not exactly a topic brimming over with excitement, I do think it's worthy of mention that we are looking at ourselves with an eye towards the future. We are undertaking a program we entitled, "Vision, Values, Mission" which will lead us into developing a long-range plan.

Finally, I want to thank retiring board members Tommy Thompson and Erik Nielsen for their service to the Historical Society and at the same time I welcome Susan Clarkson, Harry McDonald, Kevin FitzPatrick and Dollie Swanson. We look forward to benefitting from their contributions to the board.

In closing, as always thank you in the community for your support which makes it possible for us to fulfill our mission to Preserve and Promote the Rich Heritage of Highlands. I assure you we will continue striving to earn the trust and confidence you've given us.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

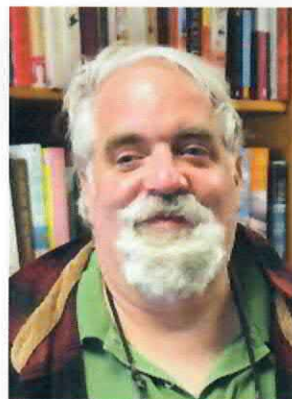
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RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

We hope you will renew now
 Family \$50 • Individual \$35
 Sustainer \$100 • Business \$250
 Promoter \$500 • Preserver \$1,000
 Protector \$2,500 • Highlander \$5,000
 And we hope you will add a donation,
 as many of you have done so generously in
 the past. To join or renew membership by check
 or credit card, visit <https://highlandshistory.com>.

Highlands Historical Society
 P.O. Box 670, Highlands, NC 28741

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!



Our New Archivist

Away for 30 years, native son Stuart Ferguson returned to Highlands after making his mark on the world. Like many young Highlanders, he worked summers at Highlands Hiker, Cyrano's Bookshop and the Hudson Library en route to receiving BA in history from Trinity College in Hartford, CT.

Stu's professional career took him to New York, Florida and finally Chicago. In 2019 he returned home to become part owner of Shakespeare & Co Bookseller.

Stu's passion is history, especially Highlands' history, so we feel most fortunate to attract him as our new Archivist. Welcome Stu.

Historical Society Founder Retires



Author, Publisher, Historian, Educator, Entrepreneur, but to the Highlands Historical Society the title that means the most is FOUNDER.

Dr. Randolph Shaffner retired from his duties as archivist June 30, 2020.

Known affectionally as Ran, he and a group of like-minded citizens joined together to reactivate HHS in 1998 and with his help assembled one of Highlands' most respected non-profit organizations, now known as The Historic Village.

His accolades are many. His achievements over his lifetime offer an impressive glimpse into his dedication in making his community a better place to live. To many, Cyrano's Bookshop offered a venue for citizens to meet and stay abreast of the latest in literary trends. To others, the Historical Society and his publications offered reliable sources for people to discover the unique history and value of Highlands.

In 2019, to recognize his contributions to his chosen passion, he was awarded the North Carolina Society of Historians' highest honor, "HISTORIAN OF THE YEAR."

Upon his retirement, the Highlands Historical Society bestowed for the first time the honorary title of Archivist Emeritus.

Fortunately, he and his wife Margaret now divide their time between Highlands and near-by Black Mountain, NC, so hopefully we can still call on him for his incredible knowledge of Highlands' history.

We wish you all the best!

Old Jail Native Plant Garden Completed



**History
Doesn't
Take A
Break**

...so you put your Big Hats and Bow Ties in the closet and came through with your financial support. Thank you, donors!

Complete List of Presenters and Display Titles

For a List of Exhibit Designers Please Visit highlandshistory.com

Still Life with Flowers

Historical Society/
Chattooga Gardens

Bug Hill

Lisa Dailey, Cultivation

Bee's Knees

Drew Hill

Indian Summer Celebration

Glenda Bell

Picnic in Provence

The Swans

Steal Dahlias

Mountain Garden Club

Hello Dahlia

Highlands Playhouse

In Honor of Those Who Have Served

Highlands Lawn & Garden

Delightful Dahlias with Floral & Furry Friends

Carol Miller

X Marks the Spot

Laurel Garden Club

Stay True / 2020 & Season of Covid-19

High Hampton

Rotary Club of Highlands

Rotary Club of Highlands

Planting Seeds For A Better Tomorrow

Highlands Cashiers
Land Trust

Framing Nature

Village Square Association

Sunday Church Hats

Episcopal Church of
the Incarnation

Kirkin' & Barefootin'

First Presbyterian Church

Smitten with Beauty of Highlands

Kat and Annelize

Old Edwards Inn

Old Edwards Inn Hospitality

White Oak Realty

Bee and Pat Gleeson

Garden Angels

Oak Leaf Flower & Garden

Fueling the Plateau All Roads Lead to Highlands

Wild Azalea Garden Club

Natures Beauty Cannot Be Caged

The Vineyard at
37 High Holly

Original Highland Estate Jewelers and Tuscan Wine Shop Art Glass Gallery

Jo and Claudia Lazow

September Sunday Morning

Glenda Bell

High Style, Bespoke Design

Joan Johnson

Pickles' Puppy Paradise

Park on Main

Jannie Bean Fine Custom Jewelry

Tom and Jannie Bean

The Cart is Full

Bryson's

Soaring Great Heights

Veve Dimmit &
Nancy Nichols

High on Dahlias

4118

Wine Country Splendor

Highlands Wine Shoppe

Primeval Forest

Dena Williams

Dahlias at the Bascom

The Bascom

Historic Playmore Changes Hands



Photo by Henry Scadlin

Clemson, SC, which they named Wantoot after their Charleston plantation. This impressive showplace was the first summer residence in the new town of Highlands.

In 1914 the property was sold to J. Blanc Monroe from New Orleans who renamed it Playmore. Over the years, he modernized the house without radically changing it, and much of the old charm still exists.

Recently there was much concern that it would fall into the hands of developers, which would mean this wonderful part of Highlands' history would be lost.

The Highlands Historical Society is most pleased to pass along the good news that the house and surrounding 143 acres have been acquired. The new owners are Heath Massey and John Mitchener. Thank you Heath and John for preserving Wantoot/Playmore for now and generations to come.

In 1879, Samuel Prioleau Ravenel and his wife began buying land in the Highlands area. They chose to build their home on a site overlooking the rugged mountains with views all the way to

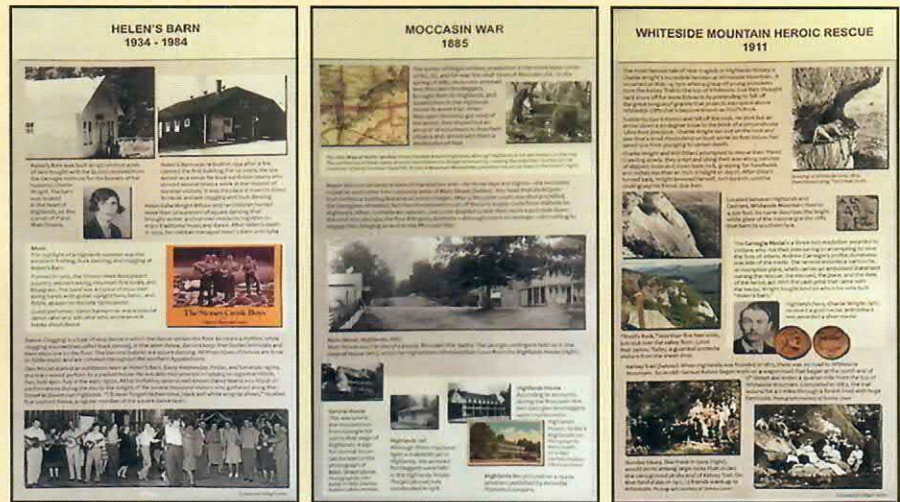
Three New Exhibits Ready For Display

For many years, the exhibits featuring three of Highlands most storied chapters in its history had not gotten the attention they warranted. The three were Helen's Barn, the Moccasin War, and the Whiteside Mountain Rescue. True, there were books describing each of these in the Museum's gift shop, but to our casual visitors they were perhaps more in-depth than time allowed.

With this in mind, the Museum Exhibits Committee recommended these be refurbished and retained noted curator Anna



Anna Fariello



Pictured are the three refurbished exhibits each measuring over forty-eight inches high.

Fariello, founder of Curatorial InSights, to take the material on hand, conduct more research and graphically transform them into more "user friendly" exhibits. The project took three months

to complete but unfortunately could not be displayed because of the Museum's closing in 2020. Be assured, they will be prominently positioned for 2021.